

**Representative Policy Board  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**Minutes of April 28, 2022 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District took place on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access. Chairman Ricozzi presided.

**PRESENT**

**RPB**

Ansonia	Thomas P. Clifford, III (remote)
Beacon Falls	Peter Betkoski
Bethany	Brian Eitzer (remote)
Branford	Mario Ricozzi
Cheshire	Timothy Slocum
East Haven	Michelle Verderame (remote)
Guilford	Charles Havrda
Killingworth	Jamie Mowat Young
Madison	Joseph A. Oslander
Milford	Richard Smith (remote)
New Haven	Naomi Campbell
North Branford	Peter DeSantis (remote)
North Haven	Anthony Rescigno (remote)
Orange	Jasper J. Jaser (remote)
Prospect	Robert E. Harvey, Jr.
Seymour	Michael H. Horbal (remote)
West Haven	T. Gregory Malloy (remote)
Woodbridge	Mark Levine (remote)

**Absent**

Derby	Frank Pepe
Hamden	Stephen Mongillo
Governor’s Rep	Vincent Marino

**Regional Water Authority**

David Borowy  
Kevin Curseaden  
Catherine LaMarr  
Suzanne Sack

**Management**

Larry L. Bingaman  
Jim Courchaine  
Dennis Donovan  
Rochelle Kowalski  
Sunny Lakshminarayanan  
Premjith Lakshman Singh  
Donna Verdisco

**Counsel**

Raquel Herrera-Soto

**Office of Consumer Affairs**

Jeffrey Donofrio

**Staff**

Jennifer Slubowski

**Call to Order**

Chair Ricozzi called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Safety Moment**

Chair Ricozzi reviewed the Safety Moment handout distributed to members.

**Minutes**

On motion made by Mr. Slocum, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried, the RPB approved the minutes of its March 24, 2022 meeting, with 88 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Aye	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Aye	Hamden (10)	Absent	Orange (3)	Aye
Bethany (5)	Aye	Killingworth (2)	Aye	Prospect (1)	Aye
Branford (6)	Aye	Madison (6)	Aye	Seymour (1)	Aye
Cheshire (4)	Aye	Milford (10)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

**Communications**

Chair Ricozzi:

- Stated that RPB term expirations are coming up on June 30, 2022 for the following members: Messrs. Clifford, Horbal, Mongillo, Pepe, Rescigno, Slocum, and Smith. Members should reach out to their municipal CEO’s to discuss
- Commented that volunteers are needed for the RPB Nominating Committee for RPB officers. Mr. Eitzer, Malloy, and Ms. Verderame volunteered at the meeting. Mr. Havrda also volunteered.
- Reported on a change to the order of the capital project applications. In particular, the application process for the Lake Whitney Dam design will be slightly expedited and presented to the RPB prior to the Customer Information System application.

**Items for Consideration and Action**

Mr. Slocum, Chair of the RPB Land Use Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the month to review the Authority’s Application for completeness, mode and date of public hearing of the Authority’s Application for the Water Treatment Plants Valve Replacement Program – Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant Filter Influent Valve Replacement Project located in North Branford, Connecticut. The committee found the application to be complete and voted to recommend the application to the RPB. He moved for approval of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, on April 1, 2022, filed an Application with the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) for a Project of the Water Treatment Plant Valve Replacement Program – Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant Filter Influent Valve Replacements Project located in North Branford, Connecticut (the “Application”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee of the Representative Policy Board reviewed the Application and recommended that the Application be accepted by the RPB as complete; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee recommended that a public hearing be conducted by a Presiding Member; and

**WHEREAS**, the RPB accepts said Application as complete and schedules said Application for a public hearing in accordance with Special Act 77-98, as amended, and the RPB Bylaws and Rules of Practice.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the RPB hereby accepts the Authority’s Application and determines to hold a public hearing on the Application, to be conducted by a Presiding Member, on May 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Chairperson is hereby directed to give notice of said hearing in accordance with Section 11 of the Rules of Practice, as amended.

Chair Ricozzi reported that Mr. DeSantis, North Branford’s RPB representative, would act as Presiding Member at the public hearing.

Ms. Young seconded the resolution. The Chair called for the vote, the RPB unanimously approved the resolution with 88 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Aye	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Aye	Hamden (10)	Absent	Orange (3)	Aye
Bethany (5)	Aye	Killingworth (2)	Aye	Prospect (1)	Aye

Branford (6)	Aye	Madison (6)	Aye	Seymour (1)	Aye
Cheshire (4)	Aye	Milford (10)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Aye	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

On motion made by Mr. Clifford, seconded by Mr. Rescigno, and unanimously carried, the RPB approved its 2022 first quarter RPB member compensation, substantially in the form submitted to the meeting, with 88 total weighted votes cast in the affirmative.

Ansonia (3)	Aye	Guilford (4)	Aye	No. Haven (5)	Aye
Beacon Falls (0)	Aye	Hamden (10)	Absent	Orange (3)	Aye
Bethany (5)	Aye	Killingworth (2)	Aye	Prospect (1)	Aye
Branford (6)	Aye	Madison (6)	Aye	Seymour (1)	Aye
Cheshire (4)	Aye	Milford (11)	Aye	West Haven (8)	Aye
Derby (2)	Absent	New Haven (13)	Absent	Woodbridge (3)	Aye
East Haven (6)	Aye	No. Branford (8)	Aye	Gov. Rep. (1)	Absent

**Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Slocum, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that at the committee meeting earlier in the month the committee reviewed the Lake Gaillard Water Treatment Plant Influent Valve Replacement Project Application for completeness, mode and date of public hearing. The application was found to be complete. The committee also received a Quarterly Financial update from management.

The committee also met again on April 20<sup>th</sup> at a special meeting to review the proposed FY 2023 Budget with management. All RPB members were invited to attend.

**Land Use Committee** – Mr. Betkoski, Chair of the Land Use Committee, reported that the committee met earlier in the month at the Madison Slash Wall Timber Harvest and held a discussion with RWA’s new Forester... The committee also received updates on RWA owned properties from management.

The committee also met on April 18<sup>th</sup> at a joint meeting with the Consumer Affairs Committee to review the proposed FY 2023 Budget with management. All RPB members were invited to attend.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

**Consumer Affairs Committee** – In Mr. Mongillo’s absence, Mr. Betkoski reported that the Committee met last week at a joint meeting with the Land Use Committee to review the proposed FY 2023 budget.

Mr. Borowy, Chair of the Authority, stated that the Authority met on March 31, 2022 at a special meeting to review the FY 2023 budget, along with meeting as the Commercial Business Committee and the Environmental, Health, & Safety Committee. RPB members received updates previously.

Mr. Borowy, Chair of the Authority, stated that Authority met earlier in the day, and as the Pension & Benefit Committee.

Ms. Sack reported on the Pension & Benefit Committee meeting earlier in the day. The Committee met with RWA’s Actuary, Angell Pension Group, to discuss the valuation reports, assumptions and associated contribution levels that will be used in the upcoming fiscal year. The Authority approved the assumptions and contributions for next fiscal year and an additional fiscal 2022 contribution to the pension plan. The Committee also met with Morgan Stanley to receive a Quarterly Investment Performance Update and to discuss Environmental, Social and Governance portfolio impacts and considerations. The committee also reviewed its 2023 Committee Work Plan.

Mr. Borowy reported that at the Authority meeting earlier in the day, the Authority reviewed a revised schedule of upcoming capital projects. He stated that two would be presented to the RPB in the next month.

Ms. Verdisco, the RWA's Chief Human Resources Officer & Vice President of Corporate Services, provided an update on the status of COVID at the RWA.

Mr. Bingaman, RWA's President and Chief Executive Officer, reviewed revenues, and operating and maintenance expenses for the month ended March 31, 2022, and stated that the projected maintenance test for FY 2022 is 125%, with no shortfall. The projection includes the rate application, including depreciation and bong pricing. It also reflects lower than anticipated PILOT and debt service. However, uncertainty still exists related to the pandemic and this may affect customers' ability to pay but the RWA is remaining optimistic.

He also reported that reservoir levels are at 97% as of April 18, 2022 compared to the long-term average of 93%.

Mr. Bingaman reported that there is a community meeting scheduled at Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., to discuss the Lake Whitney Dam project and to answer questions and address concerns about the project. So far 15 people have signed up to join the meeting. He presented a video to RPB members that will be shown at the meeting.

Chair Ricozzi acknowledged Atty. Donofrio, Office of Consumer Affairs, who reported that the FY 2023 budget letter was distributed to members of the Authority and RPB earlier in the day.

He also reported that reservoir levels are at 97% as of April 18, 2022 compared to the long-term average of 93%.

Ms. Verdisco, the RWA's Chief Human Resources Officer & Vice President of Corporate Services, provided an update of the RWA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I), which included:

1. Progress of RWA's journey to inclusion
2. DE&I mission, vision, values, and strategic priorities and initiatives
3. Summary of Key Findings and Observations
4. Program Success Criteria

Members of the RPB thanked Ms. Verdisco for her update.

At 7:47 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

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Charles Havrda, Secretary